

March 14, 2005

To the House Health Policy Committee:

My name is Christopher A. DuBay I have been a surgical technologist for 6 years, and am a graduate from the Naval School of Health sciences Surgical Technologist program, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, MD which is accredited by CAAHAP. You have heard from others today that surgical technologists are liaisons between Surgeon and Nurse, also we are the last lines of defense for sterile technique, and we have the capability of ensuring a smooth surgical intervention for the patient. Currently, I instruct individuals that are in this field of study at Oakland Community College in affiliation with William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. I have taught this profession, for less than eight months, and am just now seeing the vast scope of our practice and the need for mandatory certification.

This certification will serve as a guideline or evidence for employers in search for highly qualified surgical technologists. This would help ensure qualitative documentation that the prospected employee meets the basic standards of practice in the field of Surgical Technology. At present there are still "on the job" trained individuals in this role.

The introduction of this bill in the Michigan legislature represents the beginning of a highly important breakthrough in this state for our profession and for the implementation of appropriate standards of care for surgery patients in Michigan hospitals. *The importance of this certification bill is an integral part of a broad effort to achieve the best possible medical care for Michigan consumers of medical services.* Certification brings with it accountability for the certified individual to maintain a professional standing with AST (Association of Surgical Technologists) requiring continuing education credits to maintain the credential of CST.

HB 4403 serves to protect the broad delegatory authority of the physician as defined not only in Michigan's Medical Practice Act, but also by the American College of Surgeons. More and more, the physician' delegatory authority is under attack. I support this bill because it clearly defines the delegatory relationship between surgeons and surgical technologists and assistants once and for all. Further HB 4403 would clarify the relationship that is already in place. Surgical technologists and Surgical Assistants have already been practicing in the manner defined by this bill for over 50 years, without language in Michigan statute that addresses their practice. Ben Price, head of the GPA committee for AST (Association of Surgical Technologist) has stated, without this language, hospitals and physicians may continue to choose (though we fervently oppose this) to use lesser trained individuals in these roles.

I support this bill in its entirety on its content and merit. I hope this letter aids in your decision making process. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter and would look forward to any further correspondence that you would require.

Cordially,

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